

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **WASHINGTON, D. C.**

FILE NO. **73-591**

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 1/1/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/1-2-7/43	REPORT MADE BY WILLIAM J. DERWANGER WJB:GW
TITLE NORMAN T. WHITAKER, with aliases, Neil Williams, Neil Williamson, "The Fox"			CHARACTER OF CASE APPLICATION FOR PARDON TO RESTORE CIVIL RIGHTS

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Applicant interviewed. Desires restoration of rights so he can get work and because of dying wife. Does not intend to practice law and believes he can get Government position. Also wants to search for money paid to GASTON B. MEANS by EVELYN WALSH MOLEAN. Claims he was misled by MEANS and had no criminal intent in LINDBERGH matter. Says he expected pardon if baby recovered. Prior crimes attributed to wild life and no responsibilities. No regular employment since release from prison in 1937. Lived modestly on wife's earnings and assistance from friends. Spent time since release in libel litigation, performing odd jobs, reading, and caring for sick wife. Owes \$300 plus amount advanced by friends. Used GOLDSMITH's office facilities during libel litigation. [redacted] acquaintances, interviewed.

b6
b7C

REFERENCE:

(Refer: "6")
Report of Special Agent T. H. MORGAN dated 8/11/42 at Washington, D. C.
Report of Special Agent HYRUM T. CALLISTER, dated 12/2/42 at New York, New York.

DETAILS:

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Applicant NORMAN T. WHITAKER was interviewed by the writer on January 12, 1943 at the Washington Field Division.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">73-7984-17</div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 2 - Bureau 1 - USA, Washington, D. C. 1 - Washington Field	<div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">9 JAN 9 1943</div> <div style="font-size: 3em; text-align: center; opacity: 0.5;">COPY IN FILE</div>

57 FEB 15 1943

Applicant's Reasons for Application

The applicant stated that the reason for his filing of the application to regain his Civil Rights was that he wanted to obtain work; that he had been unable to do because of his convictions and had been given some encouragement that he would be employed if his rights were restored. Upon being asked in which Government office he expected to work, applicant replied that because of his long experience as a patent lawyer and his previous work in the Patent Office, he thought that the latter would hire him. He added that he might also obtain a position in the War Department or in the Office of the Alien Property Custodian who wanted patent men at this time. He added that he has two degrees in patents and had a large patent law practice from 1915 to 1924 when he was disbarred. He stated that he had friends in Government positions whom he believed would help him, and he also stated that if his Civil Rights were restored, he believed the Bar Association would lift his disbarment. Regardless of the latter, however, he believes that he can obtain a Government position, which is what he wants, and that he has no desire to return to the practice of law.

As a further reason for his application, applicant cited the fact that his wife, who was formerly employed by the Department of Interior, was near death from a cancer ailment; that he took her to Memorial Hospital in New York on Labor Day, and that the doctors there gave her two months to live, after examining her and stated that they could do nothing for her. Applicant added that his wife had been faithful to him through all of his trouble, and he hoped that his rights would be restored before her death, which he said might be a matter of days.

Furthermore, applicant stated that he has shown by his life during the six years since his release from prison that his intentions are good, and having paid his debt to society, his rights should be restored.

Applicant's employment and activities since Release

Applicant admitted that he has had no regular employment since his release in 1937 and gave his record as a reason for this predicament. When asked whether he had made an effort to locate employment, he answered in the affirmative, but the only place he named was the U. S. Patent Office, where, as heretofore stated, he was told that he might be given some consideration if his rights were restored.

He did some work for his brother, ROLAND T. WHITAKER, formerly a patent attorney in Washington, with whom he formerly practiced law before his disbarment. The work done for his brother was on patent cases, and he received no specific salary therefrom.

In addition to this, applicant stated that he has made collections for his brother-in-law, Dr. J. E. HEGARTY, Dentist, 3204 M Street, N. W. He added that his remuneration in this capacity was a percentage of the collections made and did not amount to much. He also stated that he prepared the pleadings and made several trips to Boston, Massachusetts in Dr. HEGARTY's action there to recover his share of an inheritance. For this applicant received only his expenses, but expects to be paid in the event the suit is successful.

Other than the above, applicant admits that he has done no other work and has lived on the earnings of his wife, who made \$2700 per year as Head of the Docket and Record Department in the Department of Interior. Because of her health, however, she was forced to quit work in June, 1942 and recently he has been obtaining some financial assistance from Dr. HEGARTY and from OSCAR A. BERGREN, Assistant Solicitor of the Department of Interior who is a close friend.

In response to an inquiry as to how he spent his time during the six years since his release applicant stated that shortly after he was set free, he instituted 25 libel cases against various persons and newspapers in Washington and New York, and that this took a lot of his time for several years. He added that he was successful in all but the two cases which went to trial. By successful, he added he meant that he settled each of the others for a few hundred dollars, which amounts went to the attorney which the Court appointed for him. He stated further that he did not expect to make any money out of said actions but merely instituted same so that his name would be cleared and "to get the newspapers off me", and that this has been accomplished.

Applicant further advised that he and his wife made several trips to New York to see Mrs. WHITAKER's sister, BLANCHE PEDISICH, who lives on Long Island. In March of 1942 he took his wife to Florida for several weeks in the hope of rebuilding her health. Other than this, he stated he has done no traveling.

When asked whether he knew H. ELI GOLDSMITH (referred to in reference report of Special Agent CALLISTER, as GOLDBSTEIN or GOLDBERG), applicant explained that GOLDSMITH permitted him to use his office facilities and stenographers for preparing motions, et cetera in connection with the litigation in New York referred to above. He added that he paid GOLDSMITH's stenographers for the work done, and had no connection with GOLDSMITH's business, which he understands was directed towards aiding Jewish refugees in coming to America. He stated that he originally met GOLDSMITH through his wife who knew him through mutual friends, and that many years ago his brother, ROLAND WHITAKER, did some legal work for him. He added that he

has not seen GOLDSMITH for several years and heard that he is now in the penitentiary.

Applicant admitted that he has spent most of his time, other than that above accounted for, in reading, attending motion pictures, and in caring for his wife who needs help constantly and they cannot hire a nurse because of their financial condition.

Applicant's Version of His Convictions

When asked about his feelings with respect to his conviction with GASTON B. MEANS, for conspiracy in an attempt to commit larceny of \$35,000 from Mrs. EVELYN WALSH McLEAN, in connection with the LINDBERGH Kidnapping Case, applicant stated that he received no money and never expected to receive any in the transactions with MEANS and Mrs. McLEAN, and that he was entirely free from any criminal intent. He added that he knew MEANS since 1924, before he went to Atlanta, and in 1930-31 knew him in New York, and that when MEANS came to him and proposed the contacts with Mrs. McLEAN he thought that MEANS was her duly authorized agent, and that he could help recover the LINDBERGH baby. At the time applicant stated that he was at large on bond, pending an appeal of his conviction in Florida for violation of the Dyer Act, and believed that if he could assist in recovering the baby he might be pardoned for that offense, for which he subsequently served time. He also admitted that he had in mind his possible participation in the numerous rewards which were offered for the safe return of the baby. MEANS told him that these were also his motives and remarked "We will both get pardons and come out ahead."

Applicant denied that he knew MEANS received \$100,000 from Mrs. McLEAN until after MEANS was arrested and tried, and stated that he never asked Mrs. McLEAN for \$35,000 or any other amount, although he did admit representing himself to her in Akron, South Carolina and El Paso, Texas as the head of the kidnapers, and stated to her that he had held the baby in his arms within 48 hours. This was all done, he added, in strict compliance with MEANS' orders, who told him exactly what to say at both meetings, neither of which lasted over ten minutes, and at one time bawling him out for saying something that he was not supposed to say. He further stated that he had had implicit faith in MEANS, and that he thought, and thinks to this day, that MEANS knew something about the kidnapping and where the baby was located. He repeated several times that he thought MEANS could recover the baby, and believes he, the applicant, would do the same thing again under like circumstances.

As proof that he did not ask Mrs. McLEAN for \$35,000 he cited the fact that this money was supposed to be advanced by her to redeem \$50,000 which was paid to unknown persons by dropping same over a wall on April 2, 1932, whereas applicant's contacts with Mrs. McLEAN were prior to that date.

Applicant then spoke on the injustice in his conviction from a legal standpoint, stating that no overt act was committed in the District of Columbia, and that the District of Columbia Courts had no jurisdiction of the case, and under the circumstances he stated the states of South Carolina or Texas may have had a case, but he added hastily that he had no criminal intent in his actions any where. With respect to his conviction he stated "Anyone would have been convicted by being associated with MEANS".

The applicant, when asked about his other convictions, prior to the MEANS Case, stated that they were probably due to the wild life which he was leading and to his lack of responsibility. He would not elaborate on what he meant by wild life, but stated that he was making plenty of money practicing law, had everything he wanted, and was traveling around with a fast crowd who spent a lot of money, enjoyed themselves, and had no responsibilities, adding that he was not married at that time. He recounted that in 1927 he won the National Chess Championship at Kalamazoo, Michigan, and as a honeymoon in 1928 he went to France to participate in the Olympic Chess Championship.

In response to a question as to whether he was guilty of the crimes for which he was convicted, applicant answered evasively and again referred to the fact that he had no responsibilities at that time.

Referring again to the MEANS Case, applicant said that he has some ideas about where the money paid to MEANS by Mrs. McLEAN might be located; that shortly after his release from prison he approached her in this connection and she told him to draw up an agreement whereby he would receive part of the money if he located same. Said agreement was prepared and forwarded to her, but he never heard any more about it and believes that she turned it over to her attorneys, who in turn gave it to the Department of Justice. He did not press the matter in deference to his wife's wishes, but stated that when his wife dies he intends to see if he can locate the money.

Residences & Associates

Applicant advised that he has resided at only two addresses since his release from prison which are as follows: 1900 F Street, N. W., from January 1, 1937 to September, 1939, and at 505 18th Street, N. W., from September, 1939 to the present. When his wife dies, applicant stated that he expects to live with OSCAR A. BERGER.

He stated that his present living quarters were very modest, and that his rent of \$50 per month was the lowest rent paid by anyone in the building.

His associates during the past few years have been very few, he stated, having spent most of his time with his wife, Mr. BERGER, and

the HAGERTYS. Judge MARCOLD, formerly his wife's superior in the Interior Department, is a friend of his, he added, who will assist him in obtaining employment. He has played chess occasionally with the above mentioned people, and a few others, but has not competed in any tournaments since his release from prison.

He admitted his present financial position is bad, stating that he owes approximately \$300, chiefly to doctors, in addition to the amounts advanced to him by Dr. HAGERTY and BERGREN, of which he has kept no record.

[redacted] of age, who resides at [redacted] and who is employed in [redacted] stated that he met applicant through Mrs. EVELYN CLAY EVERETT, of New York, with whom he had been associated in politics before coming to Washington three years ago. Knowing that he was a chess player, Mrs. EVERETT told him to contact applicant when he got to Washington, stating that he was a chess player. [redacted] stated that he has seen subject approximately one time a month for three years, chiefly at social gatherings and in playing chess. On several occasions he accompanied applicant to the races at Laurel, Maryland, but neither he nor the applicant made any substantial wagers. At one time he borrowed \$5 from the applicant. [redacted] obviously impressed by applicant's chess ability and educational background, stated that he knows of applicant's past record and that if he did not believe he was sincerely reformed he would not associate with him. Applicant, he added is very devoted to his wife, and spends a lot of time with her. In response to a question as to how applicant spends his time, [redacted] advised that he goes to most of the motion pictures and sometimes attends court trials, in addition to doing a lot of reading. Having made many visits to applicant's apartment, [redacted] stated that it is very modest and almost shabby, and that applicant's car is so bad that he wonders how it runs. In short, he said everything points to applicant's being in bad financial conditions.

[redacted] who is employed by [redacted] met applicant through his [redacted] and has met him only 6 or 8 times, [redacted] In 1940 he stated that applicant loaned him \$40 to buy a car, which was paid back the following month. He had no opinion on applicant's sincerity or his activities for the past few years.

The following description of applicant was obtained through observation and interrogation:

Age: 52; Born: April 9, 1890, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
Wife: BEATRICE E. WHITAKER, 36 years of age.

Weight: 200 pounds
Height: 5' 9"
Hair: Closely cropped, gray,
partly bald.
Eyes: Blue, wears glasses
Peculiarities: Talks very rapidly.

- C L O S E D -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **WASHINGTON**

NY FILE NO. **73-1253** **ATC**

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 12/3/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 13/42.	REPORT MADE BY HYMUS T. CALLISTER
TITLE NORMAN T. WHITAKER, with aliases, Neil Williams, Neil Williamson, "The Fox".			CHARACTER OF CASE APPLICATION FOR PARDON TO RESTORE CIVIL RIGHTS.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Reference believes applicant is victim of desire "to get rich quick" and was duped by **MEANS**; insists **WHITAKER** brilliant, cultured, patriotic and fundamentally honest. Admits seeing applicant in 1938 or 1939 in company of **GOLDSTEIN** or **GOLDBERG** who was later convicted of bringing person from Cuba to the U.S. under counterfeit visa or some similar offense. Applicant desires restoration of civil rights so that he can practice law again. Reference believes applicant hates Department of Justice and should be questioned to ascertain whether he plans to set himself up as defense lawyer to aid criminals in obtaining justice.

- R U C -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent T. H. MORGAN dated August 14, 1942, at Washington, D. C.

DETAILS:

At New York, New York

Mrs. EVELYN CLAY EVERETT was contacted by the reporting agent at 52 Gramercy Park at the local headquarters of the Women's Volunteer Service on November 13, 1942, at which time she advised that she had known the applicant since 1914 when he was attending Georgetown Law School and she was going to a girls' school in that vicinity. She stated

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~~DEFERRED RECORDING~~

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FORWARDED

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- 3 Washington (1 USA)
- 2 New York

50 JAN 2 1943

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9 DEC 2 1942

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that at the time the applicant had already graduated from the University of Pennsylvania where he had been a Delta Theta Chi and a member of the Phi Beta Kappa. She advised that the applicant had continued his studies and had graduated from Heidelberg and Oxford Universities, and had associated with a diplomatic and political crowd in Washington, D. C. She stated that she considered the applicant a man of extraordinary culture and intelligence, and added that "he was a man without vice", explaining that she meant that he did not drink or become involved with women, and aside from the offense of which he was convicted was apparently a perfect gentleman.

Mrs. EVERETT advised that she saw the applicant frequently from 1914 to 1918, particularly as her brother was very friendly with him during that period, but she saw little of him from 1918 to 1938 when she met him accidentally after which she saw him frequently from 1938 to 1941, but she has not seen him since that time.

Mrs. EVERETT stated that the applicant's wife is office manager for the Legal Division of the Department of the Interior under NATHAN MARGOLD and is apparently unbalanced as a result of the difficulties Mr. WHITAKER has been involved in.

Mrs. EVERETT stated that WHITAKER had been employed part-time by his brother-in-law Dr. HAGERTY whose offices are at 3204 M Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.; this work consisted in helping to collect bills and obtain patients. Mrs. EVERETT also believes that the applicant prepares papers for some legal firms in Washington, D.C., although she could cite no specific instances, and admitted that she was unable to prove that this was so. She stated however, that there was no question but that WHITAKER lived on the income of his wife. She stated that in discussing this matter with Mr. WHITAKER she had learned that he desired the return of his civil rights so that he could return to the practice of law. She further stated that he is very bitter toward the Department of Justice, and claims that he is just on the point of proving that GASTON B. MEANS was behind the Lindbergh kidnaping and murder.

In November of 1938 Mrs. EVERETT saw WHITAKER in the company of a Mr. GOLDSTEIN or GOLDBERG at the office of the Secretary of State. A few weeks later GOLDSTEIN or GOLDBERG was convicted of aiding people to enter this country illegally from Cuba by use of counterfeit visas or some similar offense. She did not know whether WHITAKER was involved.

Mrs. EVERETT pointed out that she believed WHITAKER should have his civil rights restored for the following reasons:

1. He can be a useful citizen if allowed to return to his place in society.
2. His wife has been very loyal through all the difficulty and has at no time considered a divorce, and should therefore receive some consideration in this matter.

3. When a man has paid his debt to society and has proven that he can go straight he should be given an opportunity.

Mrs. EVERETT was questioned regarding the applicant's desire to return to the practice of law, and she stated that in her opinion he should be questioned to ascertain whether or not he considers practicing criminal law particularly defending criminals in view of the fact that he dislikes the Department of Justice and was dissatisfied with the dispensation of justice in general.

Mrs. EVERETT advised that [redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted] had been associates of the applicant for the past several years and should be able to give information regarding his personal habits and conduct. She stated that she believed that the reason the applicant had become involved in his personal difficulties was that GASTON B. MEANS had duped him with ideas of "getting rich quickly". It was her belief that the applicant is fundamentally honest.

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b7C

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

NY 73-1253

UNDEVELOPED LEAD

WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

At Washington, D. C.

Will contact [] and []
[] to ascertain what information they might have regarding the
applicant.

b6
b7C

RES:ESP

73-7984

Date: December 9, 1942

To: Sac, Washington

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: NORMAN T. WHITAKER, with aliases; APPLICATION
FOR PARDON TO RESTORE CIVIL RIGHTSReference is made to Bureau letter dated October 23,
1942.

The Pardon Attorney has again urgently requested the completion of the investigation in this case, or at least the completion of the interview with the applicant. You are instructed, therefore, to hold the interview with the applicant in abeyance no longer. He should be interviewed regardless whether or not the New York Office has completed an interview with Evelyn May.

★ You are requested to submit a report within five days reflecting a complete interview with the applicant. The New York Office should make an effort to complete the investigation within five days.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

cc New York

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
 Mr. Clegg _____
 Mr. Glavin _____
 Mr. Ladd _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tracy _____
 Mr. Carson _____
 Mr. Coffey _____
 Mr. Hendon _____
 Mr. Kramer _____
 Mr. McGuire _____
 Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
 Mr. Nease _____
 Mr. Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

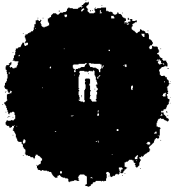
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KUC

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**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.**

RSS:BJP

November 30, 1942

73-7984

Time 2:00 P.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROSEN

RE: NORMAN T. WHITAKER, with aliases;
APPLICATION FOR PARDON TO RESTORE
CIVIL RIGHTS

At this time Daniel M. Lyons, the Pardon Attorney, contacted the writer and requested an interview with the applicant. He stated this applicant was involved in the Evalyn Walsh McLean swindle by Gaston Means, and he wanted the investigation completed as soon as possible. He was informed this would be done.

A letter has been directed to the Washington Field Office and the New York Office expediting investigation in this case.

Respectfully,

Roswell F. Smith

Roswell F. Smith

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____



65-121942

DEC 9 1942

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **WASHINGTON, D. C.**

FILE NO. **73-591**

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 11-10-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11-7-42	REPORT MADE BY T. H. MORGAN THM:LMB																
TITLE NORMAN T. WHITAKER, with aliases Neil Williams, Neil Williamson			CHARACTER OF CASE APPLICATION FOR PARDON TO RESTORE CIVIL RIGHTS																
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Criminal record of subject as reflected by Federal Bureau of Investigation set forth.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P.</p> <p>REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent T. H. MORGAN, dated August 14, 1942, at Washington, D. C.</p> <p>DETAILS: <u>AT WASHINGTON, D. C.:</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation reflected the following criminal record on NORMAN T. WHITAKER:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Contributor of Fingerprints:</th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Name and Number</th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Arrested or Received:</th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Charge:</th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Disposition</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>USP, Leavenworth, Kansas</td> <td>Norman Whitaker #21164</td> <td>5-10-24</td> <td>Dyer Act</td> <td>2 yrs *rel. on appeal - judgment affirmed and ret. disch. 1-30-27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PD. St. Petersburg, Fla.</td> <td>Norman P. Whitaker #1273</td> <td>12-17-29</td> <td>Inv.</td> <td>rel. to USM 12-19-29, #3-4-32 sent. to 3 yrs in Atlanta Pen. unexec. as defendant appld.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Contributor of Fingerprints:	Name and Number	Arrested or Received:	Charge:	Disposition	USP, Leavenworth, Kansas	Norman Whitaker #21164	5-10-24	Dyer Act	2 yrs *rel. on appeal - judgment affirmed and ret. disch. 1-30-27	PD. St. Petersburg, Fla.	Norman P. Whitaker #1273	12-17-29	Inv.	rel. to USM 12-19-29, #3-4-32 sent. to 3 yrs in Atlanta Pen. unexec. as defendant appld.
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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <i>[Signature]</i>																	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 Bureau 2 New York 1 U. S. Attorney, Washington 2 Washington Field		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">73 7984 3</div> <div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;">RECORDED</div>																	

PD, Pleasantville,
N.J.

Norman F. Whitaker, 12-4-30
#133

Mail. fraud

forf. \$300
bail

PD, New York, N.Y.

Norman Whitaker 6-28-32
#E-8590

fug. - G.L.
Wash., D.C.

6-28-32 ret'd.
to Wash., D.C.

D. C. Jail
Washington, D.C.

Norman T. Whitaker 7-2-32
#80-33

37 US Penal
Code

recog. taken &
turned over to
Marshal 11-28-32
*del. to Atlanta
Pen 9-8-34.

D.C. Jail
Washington, D.C.

Norman T. Whitaker 3-27-33
#12852-33

Embezzlement
fug. from ju

6-10-33 case
dism. for want
of pros. on fug.
chg.; nolle pro
6-15-33 on chg.
of vio. of Sec.
37 US Penal Cod

*

#0080 D.C. Jail 5-26-33, consp to commit G.L.; 18 mos. disch.
by exp. August 1934 and taken into custody by USP, Atlanta,
Ga.

USP, Atlanta, Ga.

Norman T. Whitaker 9-8-34

viol. NMVA

3 yrs, 11-6-34
out on writ of
to U.S. Ct.
Atlanta, Ga. in
custody USP Ga

USP, Alcatraz,
Calif.

Norman T. Whitaker 2-3-35
#230-AZ
in trans.
from USP,
Atlanta, Ga.

vio. NMVA

3 yrs.; 12-29-3
disch.

*

Admits: December 1929, as Norman Whitaker, Tampa, Fla.,
Dyer Act; 3 yrs. Leavenworth, sentence now on appeal.

*

As Norman F. Whitaker, Bu. of Ident., Mays Landing, N.J.,
7-29-31, nolle prossed, (may be identical).

*

#12852-33, D. C. Jail, Wash., D.C., 9-7-34, rel. to USM,
for return to Fla.

Additional aliases: Neil Williams, "The Fox", Neil Williams
"Number 19".

CC-Bu. Field Div. The above individual is identical with NORMAN T. WHITAKER,
Washington, D. C. subject of your letter dated August 13, 1942.

RE: NORMAN T. WHITAKER, Was.
 RESTORATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS

FBI NUMBER: 248508

(* Represents notations unsupported by fingerprints in FBI files.)

* * *

WHITAKER will not be interviewed by the Washington Field Office until the completion of the investigation requested of the New York Field Division, unless advised to the contrary by the Bureau.

PENDING

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION:

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.:

- * Will interview the applicant concerning his Application for Pardon to Restore Civil Rights.

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION:

AT NEW YORK CITY:

- * At 18 Gramercy Park, will contact EVELYN CLAY in connection with an affidavit of character made by her in connection with an Application to Restore Civil Rights made by NORMAN T. WHITAKER in September, 1939, which affidavit accompanied WHITAKER'S application at that time.

RECORDED

RES:MP

72-7704-2

Date:

October 23, 1941

To:

SAC, Washington

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject:

ROSEMAN ? WHITAKER, with aliases
APPLICATION FOR PARDON TO RESTORE CIVIL RIGHTS

Mr. Tolson

Mr. E. A. Tamm

Mr. Clegg

Mr. Glavin

Mr. Ladd

Mr. Nichols

Mr. Rosen

Mr. Tracy

Mr. Carson

Mr. Coffey

Mr. Hendon

Mr. Kramer

Mr. McGuire

Mr. Quinn Tamm

Mr. Nease

Miss Gandy

The Pardon Attorney has urgently requested the completion of
the investigation of this case.

You are instructed therefore to place this case in a preferred
status and complete the remaining investigation in the immediate future.

MAILED 12

OCT 23 1941 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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RHS

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RES:MP
73-7984-2
10-23-62

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. DANIEL E. LEWIS
THE JAMES ATTORNEY

Re: NORMAN T. WILKINSON, with aliases
APPLICATION FOR PARDON TO RESTORE CIVIL RIGHTS

In acknowledgment of your memorandum of October 16, 1961,
I wish to advise that every effort will be made to complete the in-
vestigation of this case in the immediate future.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

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Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 8

OCT 24 1962 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Handwritten initials and signature:
E. J. [unclear]
R. [unclear]

DANIEL M. LYONS
PARDON ATTORNEY

63-192-Whitaker
DML:MM

Department of Justice
Washington

October 16, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION:

In re: Norman T. Whitaker, Applicant for
Pardon to Restore Civil Rights.

This case originated in Washington, D. C., where it is numbered 73-591. It was submitted by the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia on March 11, 1942, to the Washington Field Office. The undeveloped leads set out in the Washington Field Office report dated April 14, 1942, are an interview in New York City with Evelyn Clay Everett and an interview with the applicant at Washington, D. C.

As it will be necessary to refer this case to the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida before final action is taken, it would be appreciated if the pending investigation could be brought to a speedy conclusion in order that we may give the United States Attorney the benefit of the reports.

Daniel M. Lyons,
Pardon Attorney.

RECORDED

56/13

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **WASHINGTON, D. C.**

FILE NO. **73-591**

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 8/14/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7/9, 11, 18, 30, 31; 8/1/42	REPORT MADE BY T. H. MORGAN THM:MEC
TITLE NORMAN T. WHITAKER with aliases: Neil Williams, Neil Williamson, "The Fox"			CHARACTER OF CASE APPLICATION FOR PARDON TO RESTORE CIVIL RIGHTS

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

References who signed affidavits are not enthusiastic about the worthiness and general dependability of applicant, with exception of a relative by marriage. However, none of references pointed out any derogatory information reflecting upon applicant's character or integrity since his release from prison. His personal friends and associates appear to be quite limited and satisfactory. Investigation indicates applicant has led a respectable life since he was last released from Federal Prison in 1936. Neighborhood investigation favorable. Credit record since 1932 satisfactory. Applicant has sued various newspapers and individuals for libel within the last five years, but in each instance judgment was for defendant. No criminal violations, Washington, D. C., since 1932; however, applicant has been warned on several occasions since 1936 for minor traffic violations.

- P -

DETAILS:

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

This investigation is predicated upon a letter dated March 11, 1942, from United States Attorney EDWARD M. CURRAN to the Washington Field Office, to the effect that his office is in receipt of an Application for Pardon to Restore Civil Rights filed by one NORMAN T. WHITAKER, and requesting that an appropriate investigation be conducted

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
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concerning WHITAKER for the purpose of determining whether his civil rights should be restored.

This investigation was conducted jointly by Special Agents RICHARD SHAW, C. F. SELFRIDGE, JR., and H. L. LISLE.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent SHAW:

NORMAN T. WHITAKER, 505 18th St., N. W., made application for the restoration of his civil rights on September 15, 1939, according to information obtained from Mr. J. J. O'LEARY, clerk in the United States Attorney's Office. The application was accompanied by WHITAKER's own affidavit and the affidavits of five character references. The names of the five character references are as follows:

HOWARD LLOYD, 6107 Broad Branch Road, Washington, D. C.;
J. D. DAMLIAN, 2700 Que Street, N. W., (physician - has known WHITAKER five and a half years) Washington, D. C.;
Dr. JOHN E. HEGARTY, 1611 31st Street, N. W., Apt. 207 - business address 3204 M Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.;
OSCAR A. BERGREN, 1354 Parkwood Place, N. W., Washington, D. C. - occupation in 1939, Assistant Solicitor, Department of Interior - has known WHITAKER six years;
EVELYN CLAY SWIFT, 18 Gramercy Park, New York City - occupation, writer - has known WHITAKER twenty-eight years.

A brief history of WHITAKER can be found in this report under the heading "Credit Record and Information." A few additional facts are as follows:

WHITAKER was convicted in the District Court for the District of Columbia for the crime of conspiracy with GASTON B. MEANS, ET AL, in attempt to commit larceny of \$35,000. MEANS was convicted for larceny of \$100,000 from Mrs. EVALYN WALSH McLEAN. WHITAKER was sentenced to 18 months in the Washington Asylum and Jail. While there he also served time for conviction under the Dyer Act, having been convicted in the Southern District Court of Florida in March, 1932. He served time in Alcatraz for violation of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act, having been sentenced in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California in April, 1924. Washington Field Office File 26-1950-111 reflects that WHITAKER was found guilty on a charge of violating the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act and was on March 4, 1932, sentenced to three years in the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, Georgia, having been tried at Tampa, Florida, on March 3, 1932.

WHITAKER was listed in Who's Who for a number of years. He is approximate 52 years of age, married, and has no children. His wife's name is DOROTHY V. D. WHITAKER. WHITAKER was once nationally known as a chess player.

Agent SHAW interviewed HOWARD LLOYD at his home, 6107 Broad Branch Road, N. W. Mr. LLOYD, 75, was once engaged in the bond and investment business as well as insurance. He has been retired for over fifteen years. Mr. LLOYD advised that he first met WHITAKER in 1920, and between that year and 1930 saw him quite frequently. He stated WHITAKER at one time practiced patent law at 920 F St., N. W., and that he, LLOYD, once rented some office space from WHITAKER in 1920. LLOYD was conducting his business in the same office building and was in and out of WHITAKER's office frequently. Altho LLOYD made affidavit in WHITAKER's behalf in September, 1939, in support of WHITAKER's application, he admitted he had not seen the applicant in the past two years. LLOYD was of the opinion that WHITAKER's "character is better than his reputation" and that applicant had suffered injustices in connection with his trial for conspiracy to defraud Mrs. EVELYN WALSH McLEAN of \$100,000 together with GASTON B. MEANS, who had promised to find the kidnapped LINDBERGH baby. LLOYD did not specify just what injustices he referred to. He stated that in the past five or six years he has "bumped into" WHITAKER on the street, but that he has never been in WHITAKER's home nor has the latter visited him in his home.

Mr. LLOYD stated he does not know what WHITAKER has been doing since his last release from prison in 1936, nor does he know where he has been employed. He stated he believes his wife is probably supporting applicant as she has had a job with the U. S. Department of Interior. LLOYD informed the agent that so far as he knows WHITAKER has been behaving since 1936 and has no unsavory associates. He was unable to furnish any definite information about the present habits or associates of WHITAKER. After stating that he supposed WHITAKER had been respectable during the last five or six years, he said that for all he knows "WHITAKER may have committed murder in the past two years" but that he does not think so. Later in the interview he remarked that WHITAKER was "guilty as hell in the MEANS case." According to LLOYD, WHITAKER is undoubtedly a loyal American. He offered as his reason for making affidavit in WHITAKER's behalf that he sincerely believes the latter has rehabilitated himself and is "going straight." He said that over the years he has cashed checks for WHITAKER and loaned him small amounts of \$40 or \$50, and that the checks were always good and WHITAKER had always repaid the loans promptly.

Dr. JOHN A. MEGARTY, a dentist with offices at 3204 K Street, N. W., stated in his affidavit that he had known WHITAKER eighteen years as of September, 1939, which would make theirs a twenty-one year acquaintance to date. He advised that he had married WHITAKER's sister DOROTHY six years ago and has seen WHITAKER at least once a week during the past six years. He related, upon interview, that he has occasionally given WHITAKER small bills to collect for him and that he has found applicant to be reliable in these matters. According to Dr. MEGARTY, since WHITAKER's release from prison he has not done much and his wife has had to support the two of them for the most part; however, she is not now working but is seriously ill, having recently had an operation

for cancer. Dr. HEGARTY stated he believes WHITAKER and his wife are in very difficult financial straits, inasmuch as Mrs. WHITAKER is no longer working and it is necessary for WHITAKER to stay with her constantly. He stated WHITAKER has had poor luck in trying to secure a position, because his reputation has always preceded him. He mentioned that for the past year WHITAKER, who was once a lawyer, has been investigating the matter of his, HEGARTY's, father's will; that his father died in Newburyport, Mass., about a year ago, leaving over \$100,000 to HEGARTY's brother, and HEGARTY has had WHITAKER go to Newburyport several times for him.

HEGARTY also disclosed that after WHITAKER's release from prison the last time he had been given a car by Governor HOFFMAN of New Jersey and some expense money to look for the money which the late GASTON B. MEANS stole from Mrs. EVALYN WALSH McLEAN and which is believed to have been hidden somewhere out west, and that WHITAKER looked for the money in about 1937.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent H. L. LISLE:

Dr. J. D. DAMIAN, who resides and has his office in the Kew Gardens Apartments, 2700 Ave St., N. W., advised that he first met WHITAKER about seven years ago when the latter brought Mrs. WHITAKER to his office for treatment. He stated he had been treating Mrs. WHITAKER prior to this time but had never met the applicant because he had not yet been released from prison. He added that the only time he saw WHITAKER was when the latter came to his office with Mrs. WHITAKER, which was a total of ten or twelve times. Upon inquiry as to why he believed applicant to be eligible or worthy for restoration of his civil rights, the doctor replied that he knew of no particular reason why WHITAKER's rights should be restored, but, on the other hand, he knew of no serious reason why his rights should be denied. He stated he considers WHITAKER a former small-time crook who never had the ability or never to get into big-time crime. Dr. DAMIAN is also definitely of the opinion that applicant is a psychopathic personality. He explained that by this he does not mean the applicant is insane, but means that he is not well balanced mentally and inclined to be unstable. He further advised that Mrs. WHITAKER is neurotic and hinted that she might be addicted to the use of morphine as a result of her real or imaginary ailments. He stated he had understood from her that she was considering divorcing WHITAKER because she was getting tired of supporting him.

Dr. DAMIAN summed up his statements with a remark to the effect that he does not know of any infractions of the law committed by applicant since he was released; that, however, beyond knowing nothing derogatory concerning the applicant, he knows nothing particularly good about him. He stated that WHITAKER's wife became dissatisfied with his treatments about six months ago and started going to another doctor; that he was glad to get rid of the case because of the neurotic tendencies of the patient.

Mr. OSCAR A. BERGREN, an Assistant Solicitor of the Department of Interior, C Street between 18th and 19th Streets, N. W., advised that he first met WHITAKER early in 1937 when Mrs. WHITAKER invited him over to their home for dinner; that at this time Mrs. WHITAKER was employed at the Department of Interior, where he, BERGREN, had met her. He stated that since that occasion he has seen the applicant at least twice each week, and that he believes he knows more about the WHITAKERS than anyone else. Mr. BERGREN informed that applicant's wife is not working at this time, but that she is still on the pay roll of the Interior Department, in that she is using her accrued annual and sick leave. According to BERGREN, the applicant has not been employed since he was released from prison; that he may have in some isolated cases done bits of legal work for practicing attorneys, but that his earned income has been negligible. He further stated that applicant spends his spare time reading and puttering about his home. Mr. BERGREN informed that Mrs. WHITAKER has not worked since June, 1942, and that she is considering going to live with her sister when her salary stops.

According to BERGREN, the applicant does not smoke or drink and, so far as Mr. BERGREN knows, is remarkably free from the common vices. When asked if he considered the applicant to be mentally stable, BERGREN said he was so far as he could tell. He explained, however, that because in applicant's early life everything had been made easy for him, it was difficult for him to adjust himself to being unemployed and not sought after. BERGREN mentioned that the applicant was once a topflight chess player and as such acquired many acquaintances and friends. Mr. BERGREN did not seem to know anything about specific instances of the applicant's attempting to secure positions, but he stated WHITAKER had difficulty getting a job because of his prison record. It was Mr. BERGREN's opinion that there might be some chance for the applicant to get a job if his rights were restored.

When asked what his reason was for believing that the applicant's rights should be restored, he stated he thought it would be a great help to the applicant and his wife in the predicament they are in. In other words, he based his opinion upon sympathy, especially for WHITAKER's wife, rather than upon any meritorious action on the part of applicant. He stated he did not know of any irregular acts having been committed by WHITAKER since his release, or activities of a questionable character which he might have indulged in since his release.

NEIGHBORHOOD

Mr. BRUCE ALEXANDER, who resides in an apartment at 505 18th Street, N. W., and who is employed as an architect by the Navy Department, advised that he knows WHITAKER only casually, in that he sees him in the halls of the apartment house. He mentioned that, other than the WHITAKERS, he is the oldest tenant in the building, and that he is probably the only tenant who is at all acquainted with them.

The Agent was able to learn through careful questioning that Mr. ALEXANDER knows nothing of the applicant's criminal record and, in fact, does not even know the applicant has served time. Apparently there is little fraternizing in the apartment building where the applicant lives, and, therefore, no further neighborhood investigation was conducted.

Mr. ALEXANDER did know that the applicant apparently was not employed and that his wife had been quite ill and worked at the Department of Interior when she was able to. He intimated that there had been considerable idle gossip around the building concerning the fact that WHITAKER apparently did not work, but he stated he felt there was nothing to the gossip. Beyond these facts, Mr. ALEXANDER was unable to shed any light on the activities of the applicant.

Mrs. S. R. KAPLAN, Cafritz Company, 1404 H St., N. W., reviewed the records of the company relative to the applicant's residence at 907 Park Central Apartments, 1900 F St., N. W., and stated the records reflected that the applicant's wife was living at this address when WHITAKER was released from prison, having taken up residence there in January, 1935, and lived there until September 18, 1939, at which time action was taken to regain possession by the owners for nonpayment of rent and, as a result, applicant and his wife were required to move. At the time they left this address they were still owing \$118 rent, and this amount is still owed at this time.

Miss M. H. BYERS, Secretary-Treasurer, Phillips Properties, Inc., owners of the apartment building in which applicant and his wife now live, produced the records which reflected that the WHITAKERS have always been prompt in payment of rent and are not delinquent in any manner at the present time. Miss BYERS was not aware of the record of applicant and Agent did not disclose any such information to her. Miss BYERS further stated there had never been any complaints of any kind concerning the WHITAKERS and that they had proved to be very satisfactory tenants.

The above investigation covers all addresses of applicant since he was released from prison.

CREDIT RECORD AND INFORMATION

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent RICHARD SHAW:

The records of the Credit Bureau, 1419 H St., N. W., contain a great deal of information relative to the applicant, including newspaper clippings concerning the MEANS case and WHITAKER's connection. In the years preceding 1932, according to the records, WHITAKER had been sued approximately 150 times in debt actions, but since that time his credit record appears to be all right. There was a landlord and tenant action against him in September, 1939, brought for possession of 907 Park Central Apartments, 1900 F St., N. W., by the Cafritz Company. The

record reflects that from September, 1937, until late in 1939, WHITAKER and his wife resided at the above address, the Park Central Apartments. Since then and at present he is residing at 505 18th St., N. W. The records gave this brief background:

From 1909 to 1914, WHITAKER was employed by the United States Patent Office, Department of Commerce, 14th St. and Constitution Ave., N. W., as an Examiner, compensated at \$1,500 per year. After resigning from this position he engaged in the practice of law with offices in the Legal Building for a while and later at 922 F St., N. W. From 1923 to early in 1932 he had offices at 1006 F St., N. W., where he engaged in the practice of patent law with his brother ROLAND.

During the past five years, according to the records, WHITAKER has sued various newspapers and individuals for libel. Some of these, briefly, are:

WHITAKER vs. Washington Daily News for Libel, \$25,000; November, 1937

WHITAKER vs. ELEANOR MEDILL PATTERSON, 15 Dupont Circle, N. W., \$200,000; February, 1938

WHITAKER vs. American Newspapers, Inc., judgment of dismissal; June, 1939

WHITAKER vs. District News Company, suit dismissed; June, 1937

WHITAKER vs. EVALYN WALSH McLEAN, verdict for defendant; December, 1939

None of these suits was successful. All were in the District of Columbia courts. Several other unsuccessful suits were noted.

The records of the Credit Bureau, 1221 G St., N. W., contained the following additional information:

The Resident Manager at 505 18th St., N. W., Mrs. SEYMOUR PRICE, stated in a letter to the Credit Bureau, September, 1939, that the WHITAKERS had always paid their rent promptly.

CRIMINAL RECORD

A check of the files of the Criminal Identification Division of the Metropolitan Police Department failed to reflect any arrests of applicant or any complaints lodged against him since 1932.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent CHARLES F. SELFRIDGE, JR.:

A check of the Traffic Violations of the Metropolitan Police Department reflected that NORMAN T. WHITAKER has been warned on several occasions since 1936 for minor traffic violations.

- PENDING -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

AT NEW YORK CITY, at 18 Gramercy Park, will contact EVELYN CLAY in connection with an affidavit of character made by her in connection with an Application to Restore Civil Rights made by NORMAN T. WHITAKER in September, 1939, which affidavit accompanied WHITAKER's application at that time.

THE WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

AT WASHINGTON, D. C., will await receipt of criminal record from the Bureau and report same.

Will interview the applicant concerning his Application for Pardon to Restore Civil Rights.

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

Washington, D. C.

August 13, 1942

HF
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

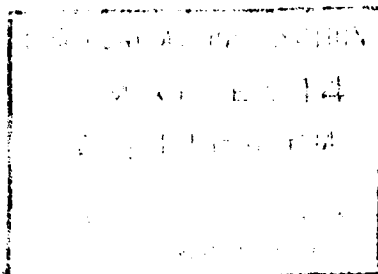
RE: NORMAN T. WHITAKER, Was.
RESTORATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS

Dear Sir:

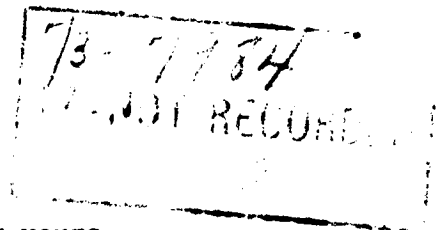
Kindly furnish the known criminal record of the following:

<u>Name (inc. aliases)</u>	<u>City, Police Arrest, or Other Number.</u>	<u>Approximate date Fin- gerprints forwarded Federal Bureau of In- vestigation.</u>	<u>Fingerprint Classifica- tion.</u>
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NORMAN T. WHITAKER, FBI # 248508
WITH ALIASES:
NEIL WILLIAMS,
NEIL WILLIAMSON
NUMBER NINETEEN
"THE FOX"



50 AUG 25 1942



Very truly yours,

S. K. McKee
S. K. McKEE
Special Agent in Charge